



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

May 16, 2005

News Release

ICE DEPORTS 206 ALIENS FROM UPSTATE NEW YORK

April removals included 146 criminals with records including murder, rape and drug smuggling

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that 206 aliens – nearly three-fourths of whom had dangerous criminal backgrounds – were deported from upstate New York in April.

The total included 146 aliens who had aggravated criminal convictions that included murder, rape, kidnapping, drug smuggling, sexual assault, robbery, burglary and fraud.

ICE, the largest investigative agency in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system by targeting violators – with a special focus on criminal and fugitive aliens who pose a threat to public safety.

The April removals included individuals from 29 different countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Ukraine and Yemen.

The removals were administered by ICE officers from the Buffalo field office of ICE's Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). Many of the people removed were living in the Western New York area, while others came from New York City, Albany, Syracuse and Champlain. The Buffalo office detains illegal aliens for a number of ICE offices in the region at the Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, N.Y.

"Removing criminal aliens from the United States is a part of a comprehensive law enforcement approach to homeland security," said William M. Cleary, ICE's Field Office Director in Buffalo. "These people not only preyed on society in general, but in many cases they victimized other members of the immigrant communities in which they lived. Anyone who is here illegally should not be surprised if they are arrested, but these particular arrests and deportations were a matter of public safety, which is the foundation of our homeland security strategy."

Among those removed from New York in April were the following:

- Taoufil El Khadrami was deported to his native country of Morocco after his arrest for possession of bomb-making materials. El Khadrami described himself as a “suicide bomber” with a personal agenda against the United States. He had a long history of arrests including assault, robbery, and resisting arrest, and he showed signs of mental decomposition.
- Jorge Valle was deported to Honduras following convictions for drug dealing, burglary, assault, rape and escape. While serving time on the rape and assault charges, Valle escaped from the Rikers Island jail in New York City through an air duct.
- Also deported was an alien who had been previously deported to Colombia in 1997 following his conviction for raping an 11-year-old girl. He was arrested as he attempted to re-enter the United States while smuggling one pound of heroin.
- In addition, 85 Nigerians who were held in Buffalo after being detained at locations around the country were removed to Nigeria.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.